

REMARKS

Amended claim 2 finds support in the specification on p. 3, line 6. New claim 9 finds support in the specification on p. 5, lines 1-17. Treating the disease presupposes diagnosing the condition and necessarily includes observing the effect of the drug on the hypotension.

Claim 1, 3, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Meisner. Claim 1 is cancelled. Claims 3 and 8 are amended to depend on new independent claim 9. Meisner does not anticipate claim 9. Specifically, the limitations "diagnosing hypotension in a patient" and "observing the effect of the S-alkylthiol on the hypotension" are not disclosed in Meisner. Meisner makes no connection between S-alkylthiols and hypotension treatment. In fact, Meisner makes no mention of hypotension.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Meisner taken with Joullie et al. and the Chemical Abstracts Registry file print. Claim 1 is cancelled. Claims 2-4 and 7-8 are amended to depend on new independent claim 9. Meisner, Joullie et al. and the Chemical Abstracts Registry file print do not render claims 2-9 obvious. Specifically, the limitations "diagnosing hypotension in a patient" and "observing the effect of the S-alkylthiol on the hypotension" are not disclosed in Meisner, Joullie et al. and the Chemical Abstracts Registry file print. The references make no connection between S-alkylthiols and hypotension treatment. In fact, the references make no mention of hypotension. Meisner is directed towards wound healing and Joullie et al. is directed towards a laundry list of complaints (col.12, lines 1-15), none of which is hypotension.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance at this time, as they are patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and passage to allowance is respectfully submitted.

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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**AMENDMENT — VERSION WITH MARKINGS
TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

In the Claims

2. (Amended)

The method of claim 1 wherein the S-alkylthiol is selected from the group consisting of S-ethylcysteine, S-methylcysteine, S-methylcysteamine, S-ethylcysteamine, S-ethylglutathione, S-methylglutathione, S-methylcoenzyme A, and S-ethylcoenzyme A.

3. (Amended)

The method of claim 1 where in the S-alkylthiol is selected from the group consisting of S-ethyl-L-cysteine, S-methyl-L-cysteine, S-ethylglutathione, S-methylglutathione, S-methylcysteamine, S-ethylcysteamine, S-methylcoenzyme A and S-ethylcoenzyme A.

4. (Amended)

The method of claim 1 wherein the S-alkylthiol is a pharmaceutically acceptable salt form.

7. (Twice Amended)

The method of claim 1 wherein the administration is ~~parenterally~~ intravenously.

8. (Twice Amended)

The method of claim 1 wherein the dose ranges from about 100 mg to about 10 g.

9. (New)

A method of treating hypotension comprising:
diagnosing hypotension in a patient;
administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of an S-alkylthiol as an antagonist
of S-nitrosothiols; and
observing the effect of the S-alkylthiol on the hypotension.